

June 19, 2023

Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Development  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

To Whom It May Concern:

Alaska needs more skilled teachers. The Alaska Teacher Recruitment and Retention (TRR) study provides ample evidence of this need. Specifically confirmed in the report is a need for more teachers trained in Alaska. Students in Alaska's unique context need teachers familiar with The Last Frontier. Alaska Bible College (ABC) has a long and rich history in Alaska preparing students for career and service. ABC is a qualified and experienced higher education provider that can help fill the gap that exists for certified teachers.

For the past several years, ABC has been incrementally, carefully, and skillfully moved toward a program that will meet the requirements of a fully accredited and approved educator preparation program. The faculty and administration of ABC have been respectful of the regulations and processes required by Alaska's State Board of Education. ABC's long history in Alaska gives it a strong foundation for helping to address the six areas listed in the TRR report for ameliorating the root causes of Alaska's teacher shortage.

It is with great confidence in their hard work, and appreciation for their commitment to Alaska, that I recommend approval of ABC's educator preparation program.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss my confidence in ABC and my sincere hope that the State Board of Education will approve their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Johnson  
Former Alaska Commissioner of Education  
2016-2022